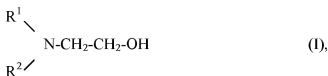


Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, or claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended). A chemical composition comprising:
 - (a) from 0.005 to 3% of sclerotium gum;
 - (b) from 0.005 to 3% of a copolymer selected from the group consisting of methyl vinyl ether/ maleic anhydride copolymer and acryloyldimethyltaurate vinylpyrrolidone copolymer, in particular the ammonium salt of the latter; and
 - (c) a suitable carrier, wherein the pH of the composition ranges from about 4.5 to about 8.
2. (Previously Presented) A chemical composition according to claim 1, further comprising:
 - (d) one or more electrolytes.
3. (Currently Amended). A chemical composition according to claim 1 comprising:
 - ~~(a) from 0.005 to 3%, and in particular from 0.005 to 1 % of said sclerotium gum and~~
 - ~~(b) from 0.005 to 3%, and in particular from 0.005 to 1 % of said a copolymer selected from the group consisting of PVM / MA crosspolymer and ammonium acryloyl dimethyl taurate vinyl pyrrolidone copolymer; and~~
 - ~~(c) a suitable carrier.~~
4. (Currently Amended). A chemical composition according to claim 3 further comprising:
 - ~~(d) from 0.001 % to 5 %, in particular from 0.001 % to 3 %, further in particular from 0.005 % to 1.5 % of one or more electrolytes.~~
5. (Currently Amended) A chemical composition according to claim 4 further comprising from 0.001 to 3% of one or more electrolytes ~~A topical formulation comprising a composition as claimed in the preceding claims and further ingredients.~~
6. (Currently Amended) A composition ~~formulation~~ according to claim 4 ~~5~~, wherein the electrolyte is an effective amount of at least one ethanolamine derivative of formula I, or a topically acceptable salt thereof:



Wherein in formula I, R^1 and R^2 independently represent hydrogen, C_{3-6} cycloalkyl or C_{1-6} alkyl, optionally substituted with hydroxy, methoxy, oxo or formyl.

8. (Original) A formulation according to claim 6 wherein the ethanolamine of formula I is a mixed glycolate/citrate salt of dimethylethanolamine.
9. (Original) A formulation according to claim 5, wherein the electrolyte is a Vitamin C salt.
10. (Currently Amended). A chemical composition according to claim 3 further comprising:
~~(d) from 0.005 % to 1.5 % of one or more electrolytes The use of a composition as~~
~~elaimed in any of claims 1 to 4 for manufacturing a topical or in particular a cosmetic~~
~~formulation.~~